

January 27, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Anti-Trust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D St., NW
Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

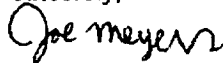
I am not a lawyer, an officer of the court, a technology professional, or a politician. So granted, there may be nuances that I am overlooking in the Microsoft antitrust case. I am having a difficult time understanding why some of Microsoft's competitors driving the antitrust case, along with half of the states suing the company, are unhappy with the settlement that all others involved in this case have agreed upon.

Reviewing the compromise from my vantage point, it would appear that Microsoft gave the most and the plaintiffs got the most. Computer makers using Windows receive flexibility allowing them to replace and remove specific parts of Windows. Even customers receive more flexibility with the product and information technology providers will have access to technical specifications. Plus, they would set up a panel to make sure all parts of the settlement are complied with.

As children, and sadly sometimes as adults, when it comes to decision-making there are always a couple of people that won't budge. In order to seek a compromise, two sides must at least come part way to meet somewhere in the middle. It seems those not signing off on the settlement simply refuse to take any steps toward the middle. Where I come from, that's bullheaded and stubborn and it gets you nowhere fast.

It is my hope that as the officer of the court making a final judgment on this decision, that you will be able to compartmentalize the intricate parts of this case. Set aside those who haven't signed on to the settlement, set aside those technology companies seeking a break up of Microsoft refusing to accept any punishment less, set aside those politicians who may be seeking continued spotlight by moving on with the case. Focus on the facts. A settlement has been reached by most of the parties partaking in the case. It seems to me to be a just compromise.

Sincerely,



Joe Meyers
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